INTERESTING FROM NEW GRANADA.

Our Begata Correspondence BOGOTA, NEW GRANADA, March 4, 1856. The Falls of Tequandama—One of the Natural Wonders of New Granada - Visit thereto by Our

Correspondent Preparations for the Journey-What he Saw on his Way to the Fulls- A Re-past of New Potatoes and Eggs-The Indian Guide-Ascent of a Mountain Ridge-Distant Voco of the Fulls-Difficulties of Approach-A Whirlpool-Rocks and Precipices-An Inhospitable Native - Arrival at the F ils, &c., &c.

I have just returned from a visit to the celebrated Palls of Tequandama, which have been so justly raised by Baron Humboldt and every subsequent traveller in these regions, and a short sketch of my trip may not be taple asant to your readers.

Efforts were made to get up a large party; but as usual on such occessions, when one could go another could not, until at last Judge B. and myself determined to wait no longer, and accordingly made our preparations for the enterprise. These were necessarily somewhat complex, and we determined to undertake the difficult task of reaching the foot of the fall by ascending the bed of the torrent, a seat which had been accomplished, although the usual way of getting into the chasa that forms the bed of the river is to be lowered by means of ropes several hundred feet down the precipice. Our trip would o cupy three days at ast, in an almost unichabited country, and the first thought was the estables; tongues were to be boiled, sandwiches to be made, cheese purchased bocolate laid in, and any other little condinents that could be put into a pair or old-fushioned saddle age were to be hanted up and stowed away.

All these preparations for the comfort and support of the inner man being completed over night, we mounted early the next morning, accompanied by a single servant. The riding dress in universal use here is well adapted to the climate, but when first wern one feels something as he imagines the old armor cased knights to have felt when accounted for the field. A pair of large and stiff ox hide overhauls encase the legs and protect them from the usual accompaniments of a journey among the Andes, ten thousand feet above the level of the sea, such as jutting points of rock along the craggy roads, sudden showers of hail and rain, and cold blasts of rarified air that seem to penetrate one to the bone. The feet are sheltered by a large brass stirrup, made in the form of a shoe, which goes lingling along the rocky sides of the path, and over the shoulders is thrown a large impermeable ruana. in shape like a blanket, with a slit in the centre, through which to thrust the head, falling down over the arms and body, protecting them completely from wind, hail and rain. When you are once inside of all this, and faily mounted, you feel a confidence that it would take a pretty strong blow from lance or balberd to drive you out of the deep and high rimmed saddle in which you sit.

Our road lead us to the small Indian village of Soacha, in the plain of Bogota, about three leagues from the city. From the very moment, almost, of our leaving the town we could see before us the misty crown of Tequandama rising above the hills and then leaning gently away ever their summits to the north. Crossing the river Bogota, we rede on, leaving the road to the falls on our left, and soon were enveloped in a cloud of mist that came rolling down the mountain side, tilling the valley-with darkness. A short league brought us to the Boca del Monte, (month of the mountain,) where the descent from the high plain of Bogota legan.

The road is what is here call "a horseshoe road." being impracticable for anything of the wheel kind, and runs down a most steep declivity, in constant short turns, like the letter S, in a series of what should be properly called stone stairs, for a distance of two or two and a-half miles. The descent in this short distance cannot be less than five thousand feet, for we came almost at once upon the vegetation of the tropics, where the plantain and the palm vied with each other in luxuriance. A lis tle more than a league from the foot of the mountoin brought us to the top of a sharp crested hill, at the foot of which ran the river, having made its fearful lean, and now running rearing and boiling over a torrent bed of immense bolders, now smooth and winded by the foaming water. A wicker like bridge, supported by poles, spanned the steam, and we were obliged to dismount and cross it on foot, as its swaying motion would not permit us to ride over. The hills on the other side presented a gentle slope down to the river bank, and on the margin of a clear mountain stream was a pirturesque sawmill, that had been built by an American many years since, and now belonged to Mr. McAllister. a native of Scotland. The crystal torrent and the turning wheel, with easy motion, formed a pleasing contras with the raging river into which it ran.

We stayed all night at the mill, a d our weary ride made hard beds welcome. Mr. McAllister was not at home, but we received a "Highland welcome from his steward, who spread before us an abundant repast of eggs and new potaties, that excelled anything of their kind I have ever eaten in Europe or America. In the morning he furnished us a guide to the Indian village of Cushios, and we retraced our steps over the rickety bridge. Our Indian boy travelled on foot; but so easily did he ascend the steep paths, and glide along over rocks and fern, that he seemed to me a winged Mercury, and often was he obliged to wait while our horses struggled up the tollsome paths that he had mounted with the greatest case.

After a wearving ascent of nearly half an hour. suddenly found myself on the sharp and narrow crest of a mountain looking down hundreds of feet into the valley below. My horse followed the road, turn ing sharply to the right, along one of those sharp and narrow ridges peculiar to the Andes. My brain swam with the dizzy scene, and I turned my eyes to the other side to seek relief. But the path up which we had wound our snake like way curled along a mountain side so steep that a single false step upon the narrow path would have sent myself and he rolling down what was little less than a precipice into the valley below. A few yards brought us to a little wider spot on the top of the ridge, and I was so giddy with the precipitous descent on either hand. that I had to dismount and lie down to recover my self. Judge B. rode unmoved along, calling out to ne continually to look upon the magnificent scene below and all around us; but this only added to my perturbation. I could look upon nothing; so closing my eyes, I lay in silence a few minutes, when we pursued our way. I did not mount again for some time, but walked for a quarter of a mile unsteadily along the path, which often was not over three feet wide, with ter rible precipices on each hand.

Presently it opened upon a beautiful rolling coun try at the base of the hills we had descended the da before, over which were a few scattered houses and cultivated fields. This was the village of Cushios. Here we had excected to obtain some men to cut a path for us through the forest, and help us to climb along the precipitous banks and bed of the river. In this we were disappointed, for nearly all were away from their houses, and we could obtain only one man to accompany us. We would not return without making an effort to such the foot of the falls, and engaging the only on we could get to go with us, we proceeded on our march.

A delightful ride of a mile along neights that gave us a beautiful view of the valley of the river and the pilling mountains beyond it, was saddenly ended by coming to the verge of a precipice, down which the road coiled its sexpentine way. Here we were compelled to dismount and food our horses, as refing before, over which were a few scattered houses and

coming to the verge of a precipice, down which the mod coiled its serpentine way. Here we were compelled to dismount and lead on horses, as reling down was out of the question. The road here is known as the Colebra, (the snake,) and sarely only a make could make such complested coirs and turnings. We had proceeded only a few yards in our descent when the guide directed our attention to the fair. Through a gorge in the mountains are upper part of the forment, as it round a half distant. Its stady given begreath the rays of the sun and the deep steady gream beneath the rays of the son, and the deep green selling of the forest all around it, gave it the approximate of a broad band or nearly upon an one-

We all sat down to gaze upon and cojoy the scene. The steep and rugged path before us—the roaring of the unseen river torrents below—the silent forest around—the righty cliffs and peaks that reared their heads thousands of feet above us, and the steady, majestic motion of the fleecy fall in front, as it descended some two or three hundred feet, in full view, flurg a charm over every one of the party, and chained every tongue in silence.

How long we sat there, in breathless admiration, I know not, and all were loth to leave the delightful scene. But the snn was already high in the heavens, and we had still a hard day's work before us. Pursuing our way down the steep path, we soon came to a grassy dell beyond, through which our horses could not proceed. They were unsaddled and tethered, so that they might feed, and two little indian urchins, who had followed us, were left in charge, to see that they did not get through in the words.

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indian urchins, who had followed us, were left in charge, to see that they did not get through in the woods.

The guide we had brought from Cienaga took our saddle bags upon his shoulders, while the last one we had engaged proceeded to cut a pathway for us through the tangled and matted undargrowth. A few minutes of rapid descent brought us to the bank of the river, which was rolling d wm over immense boulders in noisy glee. Spreading our mantles (ramas) upon a broad flat rock, we brought forth the contents of the sad lie bags. Boston crackers and Goshen cheere, washed down with 1 ag draughts of the sperkling water, formed, with a few sandwickes, our breakfast, which was crowned with a cup of chocolate we made with the help of a spirit lamp. Thus fortified, we commenced to as end the bed of the river. We were able to proceed a few hundred yards, leaping and climbing from rock to rock, when suddenly we came upon a small which pool, where a bend brought the stream dashing against the foot of a precipice, which is had worn away until it formed a cavern, beyond which we could not go. The guide said our only way was to climb along the face of the precipice to the other side of the whirlpool, about a quarter of a mile; and we proceeded at once to ascend. He led the way, cutting a path through the tangled grasses and moss covering the face of the rock, and we followed, supporting ourselves more by our hands and arms than by our feet. Climbing and clinging, we kept on, stopping every few minutes to rest, for the labor and fatugue were very great, and had gained some fifty or sixty yards in ascent, and held gained some fifty or sixty yards in ascent, and held gained some fifty or sixty yards in ascent, and held gained to the grass and mosses whose scanty roots in the crovices of the rock affinded ut an immense support above the mal and whisking river. Judge B and myself consultal for a few minutes upon the best course to be pursued. If we could possibly gain the other bank of the raoids, which were here only about twent The guide we had brought from Cienaga took our

disagreeable way; then a broad, deep fall, in which we could neither wade nor swim, would stop and turn us to some other side: and often large rocks, which we could neither climb over nor round, would stop all progress. After nearly an hour's toil and some pretty severe bruises, we were forced to give up our attempt. This was annoying; but there was no help for it. We had not been able to get more men to assist us, and without them we could not go on. Every limb and muscle in our bodies ached with our climbing and straining as though we had been beaten with clubs. We determined, therefore, to return by the road we had come, and view the falls the next day from the usual visiting place above.

love.
It was late at night when we reached the village It was late at night when we reached the village of Soacha, the only place where we could sleep, and we were tired and sore with our labors and long mountain ride. Soacha is some four or five miles from the falls, but is the only place where the visiter can stop, a: the owner of the hacienda in which they lie is very churish and much opposed to people s visiting them. He refuses to let any one re main at his estate, or to allow any building to be put up for their accommodation near them, and they are thus driven to this miserable Indian village. This gentleman is a son of General Urdaneta, of logota, and claims to belong to the best society here. I am glad to say that his own countrymen condemn his illiberal and nuwor hy conduct as much as do strangers. It is to be hoped that his lands may puss into the possession of some one who possesses a more just appreciation than he does of this sublime and beautiful object.

We started early in the morning on our gallop to the falls, in order to see them before the day miste that rise before noon shoulf have shrouded them in clouds and rainbows. Crossing the river at a place where its singular windings can only be compared to a bow knot, we rode over a rounded hill that separates the little valley from the great plain of Bogota. Towards the plain this hill is singularly bare of trees and vegetation, but immediately beyond the summit its sides are clothed with a beautiful forest

gota. Iowards the plain this hill is singularly bare of trees and vegetation, but immediately beyond the summit its sides are clothed with a beautiful forest fed by the mists of Tequendamar. After descend-ing for nearly half an hour, by a pleasant winding road, we came to a small oval grass plat, about twenty yards long, beyond which our horses could

twenty yards 1919, beyond which the first part of the waters over the rapids before the fall, but there was no roaring to till us that we were close to the wonder itself. A serpentine footpath, descending about fifty yards through thick brushwood, that shut out the view, brought us to the very verge of the fall. When we first looked upon it "the rush of waters" was not six yards from us. There was no mighty miss to

view, brought us to the very verge of the fall. When we first looked upon it "the rush of waters" was not six yards from us. There was no mighty mass to surprise the beholder with a sense of windrous power, but a gentle beauty pervaded the scene, and scemed to wrap the gazer in its charms. The river, now scanty in its wonted wealth of water, from the long continuance of the dry season, came tombling noisily along over large misses of rock that formed its bed, and taking a short preparatory leap of a few feet to a flat jutting ledge of rock, glided over its edge and "sank in silence to a sunless sea." The great depth of the chasm into which it falls (560 feet) and the well like sides of the precipice, so shut in the sound that the dashing below is scarcely perceptible.

We went on to the ledge that forms the bed of the river when it is full, and which is completely worn into holes three or four feet deep, and about two feet in diameter, and placing ourselves in one of these, that was formed at the very side of the present stream, we could look over the fall with perfect safety into the depths below. The mist was slready gathering about its foot, but had not yet risen high enough to catch the sunlight, and so we saw no rainbows, but the scene below compensated for their absence. From the small cloud of mist a little stream of water seemed to run, meandering with a dreamy motion ever small peobles, and on its margin diminutive shrubs shot up from the mosey bank, while multitudes of screaming parrots whirled up and down the abyse, now catching a green and golden gleam as nearer to us they met the sunlight, and now whirling away into a gray and leaden hue below. Yet that little stream was the foaming torren' that had so ill treated us yesterday seeming pebbles were mighty boulders, and the mosses and shrubs were the forests and towering pulms of the tropical climate beneath. So great is the difference of temperature between the top and the bottom of the fall that the tropical

son towering palms of the tropical climate beneath. So great is the difference of temperature between the top and the bottom of the fall that the tropical plants, growing with such luxuriance below cannot live at the top, and those warm-colored parrots never fly so high as the cold verge of the cataract. Leaving this scene we walked about a hundred and fifty yards along a stambling path beneath the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the blushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the blushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the brushwood, from the fall to a spot called "the precipice, which, on either side of the chosm, takes an aimset semi-circular form, and stands nearly in front of the fall. The view from this point is magnificent. From a mass of emerald green below, through which runs a stream of living silver, the perpendicular walls of reddish yellow sandstone rise almost in a perfect circle to the summit of the fall which seems a constant changing mass of bearly foam set in a mighty ring of deadened gold, while above and all around the backward leaning peaks of the Andes are clothed with verduce.

I gazed upon the scene till my head swam, and I was forced to lie down upon the grass and cover my ever with my hands. The water seems to lose its

I gazed upon the scene till my head swam, and I was forced to lie down upon the grass and cover my eyes with my hands. The water seems to lose its liquid form immediately on leaving the rocks, and becomes as it were a mass of pearls, each of which, in its downward courte, spreads cut, familie, its comet tail, lengthening and widening till it reaches the bottom. So great is the distance passed over, and so deceptive is it to the eye, that the motion of the fall seems slow, soluting and majestic in the extreme, and several seconds—they seemed minutes—are compled in the descent. We remained more than two hours at the distance passed and either water, the gray and screaming describ. We remained more than two fours at the fail, the sad and alternt water, the gay and screaming across, the deep abyes, the fearing a paid, and the cord and more storming a chair of delight that bound us to the spat. Gainering a few flowers to preserve in memory of the Falls of few combands, we started on our return, and in three hours were tack in Bogota. Here every one asks how it compares with Ningara; but it seems to me that they are as incomparable as alleged is to durider or the nie as incomparable as silence is to chunder, or the Enjecty of motion to its power. One is the sublication of hearty, and the other the hearty of the sub-

BOGOTA, March 20, 1856. Trip to the Salt Works of Zipaquira and the Emerald Mines of Muso-Model Farming in the Tropics-The Emerald Mountains of Simi Jaca-Novel Method of Working the Mines-Curious Hanging Bridge over the River Minero - Shrine of the Virgin at Chiquinquira-Modern Miracles-Return to Bogota.

Having visited the Falls of Taquenahams, as rrote you some days since, Judge B. and myself determined to make another sight-seeing trip before the miny season, or as they call it here, the winter, set in, and made travelling both disagreeable and dangerous.

Although Bogota is situated between the fourth and fifth degrees of latitude north of the equator those months which with us constitute the season are here the most disagreeable of the year Hail storms often accompany the daily showers, and cold winds from the high and desert mountains are most prevalent. The hilly roads become slippery

and all travelling for pleasure is at an end.

The present trip combined a visit to several note worthy objects, including the salt works of Zipaquira the emerald mines of Muso, and the shrine of the Virgin of Chiquinquira, the Mecca of New Granada Having made our preparations on a more extended scale than for our former trip, as we were to be twelve or fifteen days absent, we started at early morn on horseback.

A pleasant ride of about thirty-five miles due north, through the plain of Bogota, brought us to the city of Zipaquira, where the principal salt works of the government are established. The town lies at the foot of the hills that form the northern imit of the great plain of Bogota, and is in the great line of travel and trade with the northern provinces of the republic. It was a city at the time of the conquest, and was the residence of a powerful Indian chief, from which fact it derives its name— Zipa meaning in the Indian tongue chief or prince; and quira, city.

The works are placed at the foot of the salt hills as it is called, and are supplied with salt water from one of the mines by an aqueduct about one third of a mile long. It is not from a salt spring, but is a stream of fresh water carried into the mine, where it runs through channels continually supplied with nineral salt. The water takes up between twenty-two and twenty-three per cent of salt which is afterwards crystalized by evaporation in open pans. The operation thus far is very sim ple and cheap; but the roads of the country require mother operation, called here compacting, in order to render it capable of transportation on the backs of mules, without packages of any kind to protect it from loss by rains or abrasions. In order to attain this the salt is formed into immense loaves, some thing like a sugar loaf in shape, about four feet high, and nearly two feet in diameter at the base.

This is still done by the system found in use by the Indians here at the time of the conquest. Large conical pots are made of clay, and fire-baked or burned in ovens built for the purpose. These pots are then arranged in an open fireplace, made of the black salt clay that is everywhere found with mine-ral salt—ninety or one hundred of them being put n each fireplace, and so set that there is a draft under and around each pot. The fire is built, and work men with long ladies throw small quantities of salt water alternately into the heated pots. The water evaporates rapidly, and the salt deposits itself in crystals on the bottom and sides of the nots. When here are about one-third full, and with a coating of salt covering their sides, they are filled up with salt from the open boiling pans, the salt water is continued to be thrown in, and the fire being kept up night and day, the process of evaporation form the whole into a solid mass of salt almost as hard as a rock. When the pots are full the fires are put out, and after cooling they are broken in pieces from the loaf of salt. This is then broken up into smaller pieces for convenience in handling. It takes eight days of constant labor, day and night, to compact an oven of sait, each of which vields about seventy five thousand pounds. The process is continually going on in all its stages, and fifteen ovens a month, or about a million of pounds of salt are made. The mine and works are carried on by a private company, under contract with the government, which pays for the working half a cent a pound on the salt produced. The manufac ture of salt is a government monopoly, and it is sold at a fixed price of three cents a pound, at the works. The revenue from this source is a little over \$400,000

These are not the only salt mines in the for the salt bed is known to extend over a belt of country three hundred miles long; but none others are worked, and only three or four natural salt springs are improved on a small scale, under similar

We were very kindly received at Zipaquira by Mr. Ritchie, an English gentleman, who has the management of the works, which are carried on by an English company, and who entertained us most pospitably. He accompanied us over them and explained all the operations and the casons that exist for their not being car ried on on more scientific and cheaper principles

The system of short contracts which the govern ment persists in adhering to, and the frequent political changes in the country, prevent the expendi ture of a large capital in improved works. "Thus we are obliged to work in the old Indian manner, said he, "the only difference being that they used wood and we coal, and that we have made the clay pots for compacting much larger, in order to mee the greater demand for consumption." The coal used is very similar to the Newcastie coal of England, and is mined about three miles from the saltworks. Congress here is engaged in an earnes liscussion of the best manner to arrange and re stablish the public credit; but it would seem to me that if it would properly arrange the saltworks, and improve the means of transit in the country, these lone would suffice to pay the interest on its debt and an honest compliance with that duty is all that s wanting to re-establish the public credit. It is to e hoped that such an event is not far distant.

From Zipaquira we continued our journey north wardly, through Ubate, where we slept, to the plain of Simijaca. This is another singular geological formation, similar to the plain of Bogota, but with a level a few feet lower. The country along the road is extensively cultivated in wheat but in a most rude manner. The ploughs are simple branches of trees, shod with iron at the point, like those of all Spanish countries, and the grain is trod out by cattle, each farm having its motive threshing floor in the midst of the field, where the cattle are driven round in a circle over the sheaves, which are constantly spread and turned beneath their feet are constantly spread and turned beneath their feet. Here we were hospitably entertained by Don En rique Paris, a gentleman who has travelled much, and is now laboring to introduce an improved system of agriculture to his countrymen. He resides mostly on a fine estate of about ten thousand acres, which he possesses here, and on which he has introduced many of the inproved typlements of English farming, and several kinds of improved stock. We saw here a blooded Arabian stallion, a large Spanish jack, two fine Durham bulls, and several merino sheep, all of which he has imported at a great expense. Some of these had black griven but from others, particular fine Durham bulls, and several merino sheep, all of which he has imported at a great expense. Some of these had lately arrived, but from others, particuly the sheep, his efforts at breeding have been very successful. The estate of Mr. Paris presents a strong contrast with those around it, and it is very justly styled the model estate of New Granada. This gentleman told me that nearly all of his experiments in agriculture had been both successful and profitable, and that he entertained hopes that many of them would be adopted by his countrymen, although the cultivation of the land is now saddy neglected here. The want of capital, but more particularly the want of good reads, has a very depressing effect upon the whole country.

hole country.
At Simijaoa we exchanged our horses for mules we had now to encounter monotain paths where former were unsafe travellers and cangerous conveyances.

n here our road ran very nearly west; and af ter travelling about two leagues we came to the bewhich Muso lies. For six hours we continued de-scending what was little better than a craggy, pre-cipitous path during the whole way, and having

delayed somewhat on the road, it was already night when we arrived at the coarse, to whom we had letters, was attending venera in the little charch when we arrived at the books, to the little charch when we arrived at the books, to the little charch when we arrived at the books, to the little charch when we arrived at the books, in the little charch when we arrived at the books, to come at once made as feel at home in his humble cottage. We passed the night with him, and in the morning he accompanied us part of our way with his dogs, gun, and several of the villagers, in pursuit of deer among the monatans.

A tollsome journey of six hours brought us to the village of Muse, a displaided town of three or four hundred inhabitants, situate about two leagues from the emerald mines. In the since of the Spaniards thus place we have a supply the control of the size of the spaniards thus place in the mines, it was one of the part of the size of the

slightest impulse or slip would precipitate the miner himself down the crag.

As soon as a greenish tinge in the snow white vein gives token of the presence of an emertid, the labors are prosecuted with the greatest delicacy, in order that the delicate crystal may not be fractured, and the director, Mr. Fallon, repairs at once to the spot to receive it from the vein. No one is allowed in the mine except at working hours, and then only when attended by one of the overseers. The hours of working are from sunrise to sunset, the men going to their meals in gangs, so that the works are never entirely suspended during the day. The call to labor and to rest is most singular. No bell or whistle is used, but at sunrise and at sunset a small

ing to their meals in gangs, so that the works are never entirely suspended during the day. The call to labor and to rest is most singular. No bell or whistle is used, but at sunrise and at sanset a small beetle in the neighboring forest emits a load, shrill whistle for four or five minutes, which is the adopted ay than during those few moments at noon and evening does this beetle utter any sound. In the dry season from one hundred to one hundred and thirty men are employed; but in the wet season, when the supply of water is abundant, more than two hundred are usually kept at work. Gradually the whole mountain is being washed down and caried off by the mountain torrent; and day after day the director sits in an open office on the edge of the vast pits, silently watching the workmen until the tokens of a verde, as the emeralds are here called, demand his presence at the vein.

We remained nearly two days at the mines, enjoying the hospitality and entertaining conversation of Mr. Fallon, who often remains months without seeing the face of any one except the miners, accompanied in his solitude by his lady, who is the only woman within leagues of the place. We had the good fortune to see some emeralds taken out, as the workmen stuck a bearing vein on the morning after our arrival. We went down with Mr. F. into the pit, to be present at their unearthing, and the brilliant gems seemed to us exquisitely beautiful, and in their mighty setting of black slate, from impure contact with which they seemed to be preserved by a delicate fringe of snow white crystals. Mr. Fallon told us that they were comparatively pale in color, and full of jardin, as the flaws are called. The emerald crystal is always six sided in its formation, and is rarely found free from flaws. In value it is next but one to the diamond, the sapphire surpassing it in commercial estimation. These mines are the only one mine has been opened, the difficulty and expense that Senor Paris encountered in opening this giving little encouragement to the uncertain

in opening this giving little encouragement to the uncertain task of opening the others in the immediate vicinity.

The Indians knew the beauty and appreciated the value of the emerald long before the discovery of America, and there is no doubt that these mines were worked for centuries before the coming of the Spaniards. Mr. Fallon informed us that the evidences of ancient Indian workings are still visible over a vast extent of the emerald bearing region, for surpassing all that has been done since the conquest. In the graves of the aborigines, which are often turned up by the plough, and oftener by the torrent rains, on the margin and islands of the lake of Finquene, in the plain of Simijaca, rough emeralds are often found, even in the present day, and these constitute the greater portion of those that are found for sale here, as those from the mines find their best market among the jewellers to the courts of Europe. Some of the genus are found roughly worked, as though they had been rubbed one against another, but none present any evidence that the Indiana poscessed any knowledge of the art of cutting them. It is said that many were round in the conquest of Mexico, which were supposed to have been carried from here by the intercourse of Indian traders with each other. It this is true, it would argue the existence of mutual exchanges among the primitive inhabitants of Ameritrue, it would argue the existence of mutual

true, it would argue the existence of mount ex-changes among the primitive inhabitants of Ameri-ca over a large extent of country.

We left the mines with the most pleasing recol-lections of Mr. Fallon's attention and urbanity, and letter night were safely hensed from an impending shower, with the kind hearted curate of Coper. On the route we repassed a pretty hanging bridge made entirely of vines and split hamboo, over the river Minero. It was an curious and seemingly treacher-ous structure, but a closer examination convinced us of its strength. We were told that the bridge has stood from time immemorial, it being necessary to rebuild it every few years; but this right is channed by a remnant of the stood ladians, who stall

e among the mountains, and who pertinsreside amorg the mountains, and who persides all compensation, therefor, although they have long since coased to inhabit that portion of the country. They assert that the pass of the river has been theirs and their that they are the country that the c therefor, although they have long since ceased to inhabit that portion of the country. They assert that the pass of the river has been theirs and their fathers for uncounted generations, and that they will not give up their ancestral rights. They rebuild the bridge as often as necessary, in token of their right of sovereignty; but seldom, very se.dom do any of their tribe require to use it. It is a footbridge only, our mules being obliged to swim the river, and its weight is suspended from the sturdy branches of an immense tree on either bank. At Coper we examined a similar bridge, which the worthy curate had taught his parishioners to construct across the river Cantino. He had improved upon the Indian hanging bridge, and had constructed one through the strong branches of trees growing upon the precipitous banks, so that horses and mules can be led across.

Another day of tortuous mountain climbing, the road working its serpentine way, in one place, up the bald

Another day of tortuous mountain climbing, the road working its serpentine way, in one place, up the bald face of a crug for several bundred feet, where a road seemed to us a pure impossibility, brought us to the stately mansion of Mr. Paris. Although our rid had been a fatiguing one we sat up late into the night, in pleasing converse with this geutleman. He is animated solely by a spirit of enterprising improven ent for his country, and has undertaken the gigantic task of draining the mountain lake of Fraquena, and subjecting to the plough the fertile lands its waters now cover. It is an impunence work and

gigantic task of draining the mountain lake of Fuquena, and subjecting to the plough the fertile lands its waters now cover. It is an immmense work, and his neighbors shake their heads in wise doubt whenever the subject is spoken of; but his practical skill and clear comprehension will most probably demonstrate the feasibility of the work, by doing it. It accomplishment will be a great benefit to the country, as it will open a road through the plain, avoiding several long leagues of now difficult and tedroumountain road, to the travel between Bogota and the northern provinces of the republic.

From Simijaca we proceeded to the town of Chiquinquira, the site of the celebrated shrine of the Virgin, where is a miraculous picture of "Our Lady of Remedios," that has been for nearly three hundred years the object of deep veneration by the Indian and mixed population of New Granada. The time of our visit was Palm Senday, when the church was about two-thirds filled with devotees, a thousand or twelve hundred being present, mostly Indians. The church is a very large and massive building, belonging to the Order of St. Dominic, and its income is said to be about seventy thousand dollars a year. This arises almost entirely from native offerings, as the lower classes through a very large portion of the re-ublic make vows to the Virgin of Chiquingain's under all circumstances of difficulty or distress. The walks of the porch of the church are covered with relations of miracles performed, each relation being accompanied by its pictorial representation, for the benefit of the large non-reading class. The name of the person, place and date, as well as character of the miracle, are given with seruresentation, for the benefit of the large non-reading class. The name of the person, place and date, as well as character of the miracle, are given with scrupulous minuteness, and from the fact that nearly all those cited were of recent occurrence—the oldest miracle not being more than eight or ten years back—linferred that the older ones are from time to time removed to make room for the rapidly accumulating instances of miraculous intervention on the part of the Virgin.

The character of the miracles was of the most ordinary kind recoveries from sixtances being the formulations.

The character of the miracles was of the most ordinary kind, recoveries from sickness being by far the most numerous—others were salvation from impending danger, as being chased by a mad bull, a fall from a horse, and one man in an open field was miraculously saved from a flash of lightning which got into the crown of his hat, but up n his calling upon the Virgin she conducted it out through the side and rim, he receiving no other damage than being knocked down in the process. In every instance the pictorial representation gives the full particulars, the sick son stretched upon a bed, the praying mother, and the picture of the Virgin in the air; or the prostrate man, the flashing lightning, the goring bull, and the viclous horse suddenly tamed. A crowd of gazers was continually gazing upon

or the prostrate man, the flashing lightning, the goring bull, and the vicious horse suddenly tamed. A crowd of gazers was continually gazing upon them and listening to our reading of the facts.

We sought the miracle working picture, and found it in a large shrine which formed the reverse of the great after. It is a miserable and appa, ently freshly painted danb, representing the Virgin, with a saint on either sike, the figures being nearly as large as life. The legend is, that in fifteen hundred and eighty-something, a certain person in one of the northern provinces ordered a picture of "Our Virgin of Remedios" to be painted, which was done accordingly, in a very superior style. This picture was made the altar piece of a small church; but the church got out of repair, and the picture become dilapidated, and almoet invisible. It was finally thrown aside, until a poor woman, seeking for a representation of the Virgin, found it, but seedly torn and soiled. She however erected a small altar of bamboo, in a cattle pen, and set it up, and daily paid her orisons to it. One day the picture suddenly blazed forth, to the astonishment of all beholders—the head of the Virgin burned with a heavenly radiance, and the saints' features became lighted up to such a degree that the villagers rushed to the spot, thinking the houses were on fire. Since then it has preserved its miracle working powers. The legend does notell us when, if ever, this radiance existed, but the picture certainly has none of it now. Such is the object of almost universal adoration among the ignorant pertion of the population of New Granada and their great reliance in time of need.

It is not improbable that the Roman Cathoil church, with its ready adaptability to the superstitions of all nations, has in this instance adonted, in a medified form, the ancient radiance with the content in the content is the object of their veneration. The ancient and still existing name of the town—Chquinquira, which means "the City of the Moon"—seems to confirm this suppo

still existing name of the town—Chaquinquira, which means "the City of the Moon"—seems to confirm this supposition. It may be that here her altars burned, and her priests offered prayers and received offerings, as do the present ones, in the name of "Our Lady of Remedios," and that the Virgin has merely displaced an Indian Diana in her shrine and in the hearts of her votaries. I believe k would not be the first instance of the kind recorded in the page of history. A rival miracle working Virgin has been gotten up some few leagues from Chiquinquira, at the village of Legon; but although she is said to do a good business, she cannot equal her elder sister who stands upon the ancient situr of the moon.

A three days' ride brought us back to Bogota, pleased with our journey, and, I trust, somewhat wiser, but certainly with a stronger faith in the institutions of our own free land than when we left it.

Rogora April 3, 1856. Political Condition and Prospects of New Granada-Carthagena Declared a Free Port-Am riean Enterprise -- Prosperity of the Industrial Interests-Enormous Increase in the Value of Land in the Tobacco Growing Districts-The Gold Fields of Antioquia-History of the Political Parties in the Republic-General Mosquera-Proposed Confederation of the South American

I wrote you, some days since, an account of my visit to the venerable mines of Muso and some other note-worthy objects in this vicinity, and as I have now been here two months, during which time I have endeavored to study the political condition and constitution of the country, a few remarks upon its present state and future prospects may be of some nterest to your readers.

I will first mention in passing, a law which has just been passed by Congress, as it has a very marked influence up in some extensive American interests in New Granada, and may tend to a large increase of intercourse with the United States. The city of Carthagena, with its beautiful harbor, which was once the most important city in Spanish America, having been at the same time the headquarters of its naval forces in these waters, and the coutre of its richest commerce, has been declared a free port, and all goods imported there are to be, from the 1st of September next, free of duties. As a company of New York capitalists have already opened the Spanish dique or canal between that city and the Magdalena river, which is the sole commercial artery for nearly two millions of people, and have placed several fine steamers on the river, this measure ha a direct and unavoidable tendency to throw the whole trade of the country into their hands, and besides giving them the profitable carrying of it, they will receive a toll upon its transit through the line of ca-

nal which their enterprise has opened. The industrial interests of this country have re ceived a remarkable impulse within the last few years. The extinction of the tobacco monopoly, which was abolished by General Mosquera, as President of the republic in 1847, opened the fields of the southern part of the valley of the Magdalena to this branch of labor, and so well adapted have these lands proved to the tobacco culture that their product now stands second in the estimation of the commercial world, and the yield has increased and is increasing with great rapidity. Lands in all that section of country have risen from fifty to a hundred fold in value, and labor has advanced from ten cents

to eighty cents a day for common field hands. Another branch of trade that has increased great ly is the getting out the bark of the cinchona treethe old Pernylan bark. There are vast forests of this tree in the public lands of the republic, and so profitable has the trade been that a feeling some

thing akin to our own Western wild land speculation exists here. It has caused a great demand for labor, and, in conjunction with the tobacco culture, has had the effect of causing a general advance in the value of labor throughout the republic to nearly thrice its former level

The northern provinces of the public, lying east of the Magdalena river, are extensively engaged in the culture and manufacture of cotton; the gathering of coffee, which grows with great luxuriance nearly all the fine coffee now exported from Maraceibo, coming from these districts, -and sugar making which is a most profitable business. Since the organization of the navigation of the Magdalena by the American Company, the Legislatures of Veles and Socorro have passed laws authorizing their Govern os to contract for the opening of roads to that river. By these measures the products of these two very industrious provinces will soon be poured into the market of Carthagena.

On the west of the Magdalena river lies the rich provinces of Antioquia, whose gold fields are here raid to surpass those of California and Australia in richness. During the administration of Gen. Mosoners, who may be said to have really given the industrial impulse to the country, the export daty upon gold was taken of, and the exports of the coun. try had already risen to between five and aix millions yearly, all of which come through Carthagena, These are the principal sources of the present welfare of New Granada, but all the minor branches of industry have participated in the general increase. Cattle have doubted in value, provisions of all kinds have advanced, and a general prosperity begins to be evinced or every side. On every hand the people are buoyed to with hope, and the general "We out want peace to consolidate exclamation is, In this the people are undoubtedly right, and the question of the probable future remains for us to examine. Before touching it, however, a few words upon the form of government, and the past, are necessary to a better understanding of the subject-

Upon the consummation of Colombian independence the country was in a state of complete exhaustion, the consequence of the sanguinary struggle that had been carried on for fourteen years within its borders. Men were divided as to the best form of government to be adopted, and not a few, in contemplation of its otter social and industrial prostration, believed that it was too weak to adopt republican forms accessfully, and that the wisest and most patriotic course would be to establish a consti-tution; incrarchy. They hoped that the energy and strength of political forms would compensate for their absence in the social being. Others, with equal patriotism, tooked for a material resuscitation only in the adoption of the most radical principles; and placing themselves in a position antagonistic to the conservative nen, as the others styled them-elve they advocated many of the wildest theories

the conservative men, as the others styled themselves they advocated many of the wildest theories of French Jacobinism.

As is usual in all newly constituted countries, political partitionship took the most violent and ultra form, and as each party rose to power in the Stare, it carried out its views with an intolerance that on several or casons forced their opponents insering open resistance and rebellion. It is a remarkable fact, however, in the history of the country, that though each party has at times been in arras against the constituted authorities, no attempt at revolution has ever succeeded in overthrowing the government for the time being.

Tired of these destructive conflicts, a middle party has gradually grown up, cumanting in a great mensure from the principles developed during General Marqueria's administration, and has lately tak in the field with that gentleman at its head as its exponent and canadate for the Presidency for the criming Presidential term. Avoiding the extension of the other parties, it seeks to establish the government upon alterial republican principles, organizing its forms after those of our own country, and forming a feneral compact like that of the United States. The present government is that of a countribude republic the different Provincial Legislature having tauctipal powers only, and the governous affinings elected by the people, are more proporty the agents of the central executive. All legislative muthodly resides in the general Congress. It is this incongruous system that has given into to the violent spart of variations here, I am inclined to think that in the country will arrianship here.

From my own observations here, I am inclined to think that in the country will experience great advancement in its enter of material prosperity, which in its transition of a retribute greatly to its political stability. A vector do receiple are naturally averse to political receipts. For a long time a k-vocite officer and com-

next in its enter of material prosperity, was its tern will contribute greatly to its political builty. A self-te do resple are naturally ave-political revolutions. The character and ante is of Ger. Musquera with contribute largely to the character and ante edents ction. Marquera win contribute largely to these re-sules. For a long time a favorite officer and com-panion of the latterstor, follow, he has for several years stood as the first is later of the republic, and officered occasions his naced has saved it from the horize of marchy and livestine strife. His great expendence in public affects, his interacte personal ROVEIDENCHIE of political persecution that has ur terocious spi return tely matched too many of the public men of Spatch America, all point his career with hope to his country men and repose for his native land. To this we may add his consistent and firm democratic plants like and he normalized the institutions and pelicy of the United States.

That I run not not sanguine in the hopes I entertain in a to that it is the stabulity and proposed.

tain in relation to the stability and progress of New Granatia will be evident, I think, from a sample rectal of some of the labors accomplished during her short career as a which has five been disturbed by political which has the been disturbed by political convul-sions. She has free a the press from every trammel which the policy of the pass had put upon it; she has separated the charch from the State, and declar-ted universal freedom of religious worship; she has thrown sown all the old burners that a protective system had creeted in the paths of commerce; she has in tituted parties schools at the charge of the Strict; she has about hed the law of prinogeniture; she has about hed the law of prinogeniture; she has about dearn comment for debt, and the death penalty for post cal offences; and she has invited emigration by grants of lands to actual settiers and conserring open them citizenship imme-diately on a plication or it. If the unquiet past has horse such rich truit, may we not hope for much

daily on application of it. If the unquiet past has beene such rich fruit, may we not hope for much gord in the quart feture?

The general hope of the people now is, that the former republic of Colombia may be soon re-established; and it would been as though events tended in that direction. A large majority of the people of Venezuela are in favor of it, and the recent message of President Monagas, of that republic, strongly advected it. Ecuad r is ready and desirous to enter into n gottations to effect that object; and the statesmen here are seriously meditating the manner of bringing it mout, now that the coud that lately hung over the relations between New Granada and Venezuela has disappeared. If they succeed in establishing the principle of state rights here, as is now contemphated, the work will be more than half done for they will thus lay hold in Southern American tention establishing the the contemphated, the work will be more than half done for they will thus lay hold in Southern American confederation. The neighboring communities will be ready and auxious to come into a Colombian confederation, that respects the sovereignty of its constituent States, and only hands together free peoples for the purposes of mutual defence and unrestricted intercourse. Should this event take place we may believe that the evils of the past have taught wisdom to the nations of the past have taught wisdom to the nations of the past have taught wisdom to the nations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have taught wisdom to the pations of the past have the past have taught wisdom to the nations of Spanish America, and that its regeneration has begun. A South american confederation upon the principles of our own prosperous Union, would mark a new era in the progress of republicanism, and be halled with joy through all the civilized world.

Our Paname Corresponden UNITED SHIP ST. MARTS, PANAMA, May 1, 1856.

Cruise of the St. Marys in the South Pacific-The Tuhiti Society Group-Apia-The Feejee Islands -Moral, Physical and Intellectual Traits of the Oceanic Tribes-Their Gradual Extinction by Contact with the Whites-Chile-The Chincha Islands - Callao - Gunyaquil - Panama - The Late Riots-Measures of Capt. Bailey.

We sailed from San Francisco on the 17th April, 1855, for San Juan der Sur de Nicaragua, where, ofter settling a little difficulty which had arisen between the authorities of that place and our Consul, Mr. Priest, we sailed for the Sandwich Islands, where we arrived on the lath July, and remained till the 36th of the same mouth; from theuce to the Marquesas Islands, in consequence of having reseived intelligence that some men belonging to a whaling vessel inditioen taken prisoners by the natives, and one or two of them murdered. Upon our arrival, we found the French authorities, who have established a protectorate over this group, had received every satisfaction for the outrages committed, and which appeared to stisfy Capt. Balley, of this ship. From these islands we proceeded to Tabiti, society Group, over which the French also

protect rate, with what justice or foundation